

# The Brooklyn Paper

Including Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, The Downtown News, DUMBO and Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper

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Brooklyn's REAL Newspapers

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## RATNER'S MTA DEAL HELD UP

### Kalikow: Nets will have to wait until we deal with Jets



Bruce Ratner

By Jess Wisloski and Neil Sloane  
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner and his New Jersey Nets will just have to wait.

That's the message Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chairman Peter Kalikow delivered at a state Assembly public hearing on plans by the New York Jets to build a football stadium over rail yards on Manhattan's West Side.

Referring to the Nets basketball team owned by real estate developer Ratner — who hopes to move the team to a new arena he'd build over MTA rail yards at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues — Kalikow said, "The Nets deal is absolutely

on hold until this finishes."

Kalikow's comment at the Feb. 3 hearing was reported by the northern New Jersey newspaper The Record.

For Ratner, the basketball arena would be the centerpiece of a six-square-block development into Prospect Heights that would include 17 high-rise office and residential towers. Aside from the MTA property, the Ratner plan relies on the state's condemnation of private property under eminent domain.

Asked to comment on Kalikow's statement, Barry Baun, a spokesman for Ratner's development company, Forest City Ratner, said, "We are not discussing ongoing conversations with the state, the city or the MTA."

Kalikow said his agency would first have to complete negotiations with the Jets, who with the staunch support of Mayor Michael Bloomberg seek to build a football stadium with a retractable roof over the MTA's Hudson Yards. The Jets stadium would also be a lynchpin of the mayor's bid for the 2012 summer Olympics.

An appraisal done for the MTA put the value of the air rights over the Hudson Yards at almost \$900 million.

See **RATNER** on page 4

## State of confusion over Yards

The Brooklyn Papers

Asked by The Brooklyn Papers, both before and after MTA Chairman Peter Kalikow's testimony, whether Forest City Ratner and the MTA have been in negotiations, MTA spokesman Tom Kelly replied that the two parties had been in discussions over the rail yards but that it was the development company's fault the negotiations have faltered.

"Ratner and us were in discussions," Kelly said, seemingly contradicting his boss' statement.

"Ratner said, 'We'll get back to you' and Ratner hasn't picked up the phone to have an addi-

tional meeting since."

Asked about Kalikow's statement about waiting for the Jets deal to be finalized before dealing with Ratner, Kelly said, "There's not a link there." He said it was up to Ratner to resume negotiations.

"What I am telling you is there have been discussions [between Ratner and the MTA]," said Kelly. "The last time we talked to them, we said something to them that they had to think about, and they said they'd get back to us, and they haven't gotten back to us."

"All I know is they were close to an agreement on something, and Forest City Ratner was going to get back to us."

— Jess Wisloski

## Commerce not banking on drive-thru anymore

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

The chairman of Community Board 6 announced Wednesday that Commerce Bank has scrapped plans to build a three-lane drive-through for a new branch in Park Slope.

Plans for the new bank, to be built on the

corner of Fifth Avenue and First Street, were announced last summer, but have faced staunch opposition from residents, who formed the group Park Slope Neighbors to fight the drive-through portion.

The bank could have built the facility as part of the current zoning regulations.

Jack Rainey, vice president of Government and Community Banking for Commerce, told

Community Board 6 leaders of the changes, said board chairman Jerry Armer, and they were announced at the board's general meeting on Feb. 9.

Armer congratulated the community, and specifically the Park Slope Neighbors, for getting Commerce Bank officials to reconsider the controversial drive-through.

See **BANK** on page 4

## Park planner blows his top

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

The last of three meetings focusing on Pier 6 between the designers of Brooklyn Bridge Park and select community leaders was intended to provide answers to questions and criticisms they had raised about the planned 1.3-mile waterfront development.

What the community lead-

### EXCLUSIVE

ers got instead was yelled at. Lead park designer Michael Van Valkenburgh flew into a rage during the Feb. 7 meeting at his Manhattan office.

The sudden tirade came in response to a comment from a Brooklyn Heights resident disputing a comparison made by a Van Valkenburgh associate who, in response to criticism

of a 30-story apartment building planned near the park's Atlantic Avenue gateway, pointed to what he called the failure of Flushing Meadows Park, in Queens, due to a lack of housing and population density at its perimeter.

"That park was only there because of the World's Fair," Kenn Lowy said of the Queens park. "You can't even come close to comparing the two."

That's when Van Valken-

burgh leapt from his chair.

"Bulls— I can't compare it! It's a park! I don't tell me what I can and what I can't compare it to," he yelled at Lowy.

"Michael, my point is —" Van Valkenburgh cut in, "It's a park for human beings that live next door."

"But Michael, that's not my point, my point is, it was originally for the World's Fair —"

See **BLOWS TOP** on page 4



Romantic Times founder and CEO Kathryn Falk in her home near Love Lane in Brooklyn Heights this week. Inset shows cover of the December issue of her 24-year-old magazine, which has upset a librarian and several readers.

## Racy Romance

### Cover of Heights woman's mag raises eyebrows, ire

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

When Jane Ractzman, a librarian in Oregon, picked up the December issue of Romantic Times, the self-described "Christian widow" said she experienced several fits of embarrassment before finally writing an angry letter to the magazine's Brooklyn publisher. She would not be renewing her subscription, she wrote.

No, it wasn't the interview with Linda Howard, author of "To Die For," that steamed Ractzman and several other regular subscribers of the monthly women's romance-fiction magazine whose office is on Bergen Street in Cobble Hill. It was the front cover, the type most picture when they think of Harlequin novels.

Depicted in a red background, the cover reveals a bare-chested man and naked

woman wrapped in each other's arms with only the woman's blue robe blocking her nether region.

The "clinch," as the deep embrace typical of romance novel covers is called, set off a flurry of debates, not least of all on the very state of the romance novel.

"I realized," said Ractzman in an e-mail to the 24-year-old magazine, "it's not enough to skip the Erotica section [anymore]."

Since it went on stands worldwide, the December issue has managed to rattle readers from as far away as Australia and as near as, well, Brooklyn. But while some readers defended the cover, as either perfectly tasteful or as artwork protected by the First Amendment, others said it was the type of image that begged disparagement.

"We have tried so hard and so long to get some respect for romance novels,"

wrote a subscriber of Romantic Times, Beth Johnson, in an e-mail to the magazine.

"The cover of RT's December issue was a giant step backward. The revealing picture was unnecessary, and the headline 'Hot Novels' was only slightly better than the caption 'Scorchingly Sensual.' Please, be tasteful and appropriate."

Kathryn Falk, who began publishing her magazine from an apartment in close — and appropriate — proximity to Love Lane in Brooklyn Heights, said much of the controversy stems from an unexpected break from recent tradition. While the cover usually features an author, December's chosen cover girl, Nicole Jordan, told publishers she preferred the cover of her most recent novel, "Lord of Seduction," be shown instead.

See **ROMANTIC RHUBARB** on page 14

## 17 B'klyn Catholic schools closing

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

Citing shrinking enrollment over the last five years, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn shocked parents and schoolchildren on Ash Wednesday, announcing it will shutter 17 of the borough's Catholic schools at the end of this semester, including those in parishes in Bensonhurst, Carroll Gardens and Park Slope.

Among the schools to close in Brooklyn are: Saint Finbar's, at 1825 Bath Ave., in Bath Beach; Sacred Hearts and St. Stephen's, at 135 Summit St., in Carroll Gardens; and St. Thomas Aquinas, at 211 Eighth St., in Park Slope.

The schools will be closed after the school year ends in June. Eleven others, a diocesan spokesman said, will either merge or be integrated into one of four existing schools, two in East Flatbush, and one

each in Williamsburg and Midwood.

One regional school will open in Williamsburg, at Most Holy Trinity School, 140 Montrose Ave. in East Flatbush, at Holy Cross School, 2520 Church Ave., and at St. Rose of Lima School, 259 Parkville Ave. The fourth will open at Our Lady of Christians School, 1340 E. 29th St., in Midwood.

The list of schools, including nine others in Queens, had long been considered at-risk, said diocesan

spokesman Frank DeRosa, who cited the eventual closing on Tuesday, when students came home with fewer than 225 students were considered at risk.

"Our goal is to continue to have a parochial school presence in every part of the diocese, if it is at all possible," said Msgr. Michael Hardiman, vicar for Education in the Diocese of Brooklyn, which includes Queens.

"This is the best reconfiguration of the schools at this time."

Parents from Saint Finbar learned of the eventual closing on Tuesday, when students came home with a typed letter signed by the Rev. Joseph Holcomb, the pastor of the parish, and Rosina Kalsouli, the school's principal. Although a meeting for parents was hastily organized for that evening, several dozen parents and children who showed up were told by Holcomb that the meeting had been postponed.

"You're children should be at home doing homework right now," he said sternly before returning to the rectory. DeRosa said that the 196 students currently enrolled at Saint Finbar would likely be admitted to either St. Frances Cabrini, at 35 Bay 11th St., or St. Mary Mother of Jesus, at 8401 23rd Ave. But many parents said that a rush to register their kids would force some to either be bused to a distant parochial school or attend public school.

See **SCHOOLS** on page 14



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# NEW BAMLAND THEATER SET

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Adding to the growing cache of projects in place for the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Cultural District in Fort Greene, the mayor has unveiled designs for an ultra-modern, \$335.8 million, 299-seat Theater for a New Audience.

Designed by architects Frank Gehry and Hugh Hardy, the four-story building, at Flatbush and Lafayette avenues, will give the troupe, known for performing Shakespeare and classical drama, a stage inspired by one used by London's Royal National Theater, with high ceilings and a trapped floor.

The designers called it "both intimate and epic." The development site, which will come to include a 110,000-square-foot visual and performing arts branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, replaces what is now a BAM parking lot and a privately run gardening center.

Joined on Feb. 3 by officials from the theater group, Borough President Marty Markowitz, Council members Letitia James and David Yassky, city Arts Commissioner Kate Levin, and representatives of the Economic Development Corporation and the Brooklyn Academy of Music Local Development Corporation, Mayor Michael Bloomberg helped unveil the plans at the studio of the Mark Morris Dance Troupe. The city is contributing \$6.2 million for the theater.

"This new theater will be an important anchor for the BAM Cultural District, which is an essential component of our effort to expand the city's third-largest business district in Downtown Brooklyn," the mayor said.

Combined, the Downtown Brooklyn rezoning, the Atlantic Yards development, and the BAM Cultural District will result in the creation of 500,000 square feet of new space for the arts, almost 7



Digital rendering of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's planned Theater for the New Audience.

million square feet of office space, 5,500 mixed-income apartments, over 1 million square feet of retail, and a 19,000-seat arena," a mayoral press release boasted, factoring in developer Bruce Ratner's plans for a basketball arena and 17 office and residential skyscrapers emanating from the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

The theater project is the second to move forward in the cultural district. The first, an office building for arts groups at 80 Hanson Pl., is nearing completion.

"William Shakespeare, your new home away from home is Flatbush-upon-Lafayette!" said Markowitz.

The BAM Cultural District, a \$650 million project, came about as a partnership between the city and the BAM Local Development Corporation to help transfer and finance the renewal of vacant or underutilized properties around BAM to further the arts scene in Fort Greene.


With goals of creating affordable space for arts organizations and arts-related educational programming, as well as beautifying the streetscapes and public areas and expanding the housing market, the

LDC has had little difficulty garnering the interest of private and public donors. While the chairman of the BAM LDC, Harvey Lichtenstein, has some detractors in the largely black Fort Greene community who say his artistic preferences are "Eurocentric" and fear the LDC will show preference to white arts groups, the ambitions of the development corporation to keep the area artsy have been supported by the city officials both vocally and fiscally.

James, whose district includes the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the cultural district and the nearby communities of Fort Greene and Prospect Heights, has been involved in a group called the Concerned Citizens Coalition, comprised of religious leaders and residents who want to address potential displacement of with the coming of the cultural district.

Nevertheless, she, too, spoke highly of the new theater. "Theater for a New Audience creates world-class theater and maintains as a core mission an inspiring commitment to community-based education," she said.

"At a time when arts and culture in our schools are being cut, welcome to Fort Greene."



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# Snowball fight gone bad

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

A snowball fight turned into an assault and mugging on Feb. 3.

While walking along Eighth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, a couple was talking when someone suddenly threw a snowball at the female victim, 23, at 6:25 pm.

The packed ice hit her in the side of the head, and when the couple turned to confront the pitcher, one man came forward. "I threw it," said one young man, boldly.

"You are an [expletive]," responded the woman, and the couple kept walking.

In no time at all a group of young men surrounded the couple, and one man struck the woman's companion, 22, on the left side of his face, causing pain and swelling.

Attempting to stop the attack, the woman intervened, but was knocked down, and hit repeatedly with a cane.

During the assault, she felt her purse being pulled away from her hands, but she lunged and the robber dragged her across the ground.

The bag strap broke, and the thugs fled eastbound on Eighth Street and northbound on Fifth Avenue.

## Averts push-in

A mugger robbed a woman right in front of her building on Ninth Street on Feb. 3.

The victim, 23, told police she was headed home from visiting

her sister on 11th Street, at 11:20 pm, and was walking between Seventh and Eighth avenues when she became aware that a stocky, white male, about 5-foot-11 and in his early 20s had been following her from Sixth Avenue.

She said she made it to the front of the building, when he grabbed her from behind, and put his hand over her mouth.

The brute demanded that she open the door to her building but she struggled and refused to open the door.

The mugger got \$40 from her purse and then fled on foot towards Eighth Avenue.

## Auto embezzle

A former salesman for an automotive warehouse ripped off the Gowanus company to the tune of \$3,577 in auto parts between Jan. 31 and Feb. 3, and then split town, say police.

The owner, who reported the theft on Feb. 4, told police he discovered that the former employee, a male, white, 30 years of age, 6-foot-5 and 200 pounds, had allegedly signed receipts declaring he had picked up payments from vendors, but failed to deliver the payments to the company.

The victim also noticed that more than \$2,000 worth of auto parts from eight different companies had been delivered to the business with the former salesman's signature on them, allegedly indicating he had received them, either.

The business never saw those, either.

The owner of the 15th Street shop, between Second and Third

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Mugger follows

An apologetic mugger cornered a woman and gave her some background before asking for her money on Jan. 30.

The woman, 32, didn't report the mugging to police until noon, even though the mugger struck at 2 am as she approached the lobby to her building on Eighth Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

According to police, the young man followed her into the building.

Displaying a box-cutter, he said, "I don't want to hurt you, but I want your money. I'm the oldest kid."

The woman handed over the \$80 she had in her wallet, and the mugger fled in an unknown direction.

Police found the victim after the stabbing, on the corner of Carroll Street and Whitehall Place, just west of Fourth Avenue, shortly after the 8:15 am attack.

The 9-year-old girl explained to police that she was walking to school at Our Lady of Peace at 512 Carroll St. when she was stabbed by an unknown attacker in the call part of her right leg.

Shortly after she was brought

to Ninth Street from where they were standing, at Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue.

She gave him directions, and then headed towards her building between Fifth and Sixth avenues, but he followed her down Fourth Street to the front of her apartment building.

"Give me your money, I don't want to hurt you," demanded the mugger. Complying, the woman handed over \$30 from her left pocket, then reached in her right pocket to get her keys.

"What are you doing?" the mugger asked.

"I'm going home," she replied, but when she tried to open the door to the building, the man tried to push his way in after her.

The woman began to fight back, but then noticed an unrecognizable object in the attacker's hand, and relented, fearing it was a weapon.

But her struggle apparently startled the bully, who fled in an unknown direction.

**Pencil stabbed**  
A young girl was stabbed with a pencil by another student while she was walking to school in Gowanus on Jan. 31.

Police found the victim after the stabbing, on the corner of Carroll Street and Whitehall Place, just west of Fourth Avenue, shortly after the 8:15 am attack.

The 9-year-old girl explained to police that she was walking to school at Our Lady of Peace at 512 Carroll St. when she was stabbed by an unknown attacker in the call part of her right leg.

Shortly after she was brought

to New York Methodist Hospital, medics withdrew from her leg a pencil that had been lodged about three inches deep into her skin.

The girl said she didn't see who stabbed her because she was passed by a group of 15 other students walking to school.

Police are investigating the incident.

### Threatens rape

A mugger threatened to cut and rape a woman not far from her Eighth Street apartment just moments before her friend came by on Feb. 2.

The victim, 31, was just two doors away from her apartment and headed home at 11:10 am, near Eighth Avenue, when a stranger man came up behind her.

Saying he had a knife, he asked her for her money. When she screamed, the man began to punch her in the stomach repeatedly.

"Don't make me cut you," he said.

Finally the woman gave up her money in a brown purse, \$60 in total, and then the attacker upped the threat.

"I'm going to rape you," he menaced. But the victim suddenly saw her friends coming.

Noticing she was down, they started running towards her.

The mugger noticed, too, and fled westbound towards Seventh Avenue.

The victim described her attacker as a black male, 6-foot-0 and 180 pounds. An investigation is ongoing.

### GAP mugging

A woman in the subway at Grand Army Plaza was mugged for her jacket, cell phone and money on Feb. 3.

The victim, 37, who lives nearby told police the incident happened at 8 pm, when she was approached by a black male in his 20s, about 5-foot-9 with a slender build as she exited on Flatbush Avenue.

He cornered her in the stairwell of the subway.

Brandishing a knife, he ordered, "Give me your coat, cell phone and money." She complied, and handed over the brown fur jacket, her house keys, a secure ID card for building access and a gold-plated cardholder.

The mugger fled in unknown direction.

**Delivery rob**  
Thugs robbed a deliveryman who attempted to bring a \$14 food order to a Fourth Street home on Feb. 4.

When the deliveryman arrived at the address between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, he expected to drop off the food, get paid and leave, like most nights.

Instead, a gang of men began punching him and kicking him and pushed him to the ground, forcibly removing the \$20 in cash he had on him for change at 10:28 pm.

"Give me the money!" demanded one man.

The muggers fled south on Prospect Park West.

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## BLOWS TOP...

Continued from page 1

"It is what it is now, it's a park," said Van Valkenburgh. "Do you want to have some other lamebrain excuse or do you want to have the highest possible level of thinking about what a park oughta be?"

The argument continued back and forth and Lowy tried to end it by explaining, "My point is, we are all living near Brooklyn Bridge Park in the same way that people live near Prospect Park, or Central Park. We're a little bit more removed, but not by much. Plus 360 Furman St. [a private high-rise condominium conversion] will bring in a lot of people. The views of the park are nothing like what you see from Flushing Meadows, and you're equivocating the view of the Brooklyn Bridge with the view of this 30-story building."

"That isn't what he said, but if that's what you heard, fine," said Van Valkenburgh.

"But that is what he said," Lowy responded.

"No, that isn't what he said at all."

A silence filled the room for several moments and then Pauline Blake, a co-chair of the Community Board 6 land use committee and a member of the Community Advisory Committee to the park planners, spoke up, but only after raising her hand.

Blake calmly chastised Van Valkenburgh for his tirade.

"Michael, I am amazed that you would get up and scream at us for giving our point of view," Blake said. "As if [the park plan] is just already an accomplished fact, and we, as a public, cannot have an opinion without you getting irate that the suggestion that what you designed is not what we, as Brooklynites, had in mind when we envisioned this park."

Blake added that she hoped Van Valkenburgh would be more prepared to handle questions and criticism by Feb. 22, when CB6 and CB2 are hosting a town hall meeting at 6:30 pm at Polytechnic University, during which Van Valkenburgh is to present the plans to the public for the first time.

Instead of quieting down, the landscape architect shouted back that he wasn't yelling about the opinions being expressed but the "factual error" Lowy had raised.

"Why don't you stop shouting!" said Bernard Erlich, an architect from Boerum Hill.

"OK, I will!" Van Valkenburgh shouted back.

Roy Sloane, a Cobble Hill activist and member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee, said

he was afraid the park planners were doing themselves in.

"You wouldn't script Michael blowing up and calling everybody a you wouldn't think he would do it," Sloane said.

"But then, there he is doing it." "There is a level of demoralization that the whole process has produced," said Sloane, who added that he has spoken with many community members who have begun to avoid the meetings altogether.

"I've had a number of conversations with citizen-activist types who haven't shown up to meetings lately," he said.

Through Sloane said he hasn't given up hope yet, he sympathizes with those who have. "If you can have a giant public process where 3,000 people ratify a plan, and it can all just be thrown away, what's the point?" Sloane said, referring to the public park planning sessions of 1999 and 2000 that produced a draft master plan that has been almost entirely discarded.

Sloane likened the meetings with Van Valkenburgh and Levenger to "hanging your head into a brick wall."

And although Van Valkenburgh characterizes the meetings as "community workshops" in which to gather feedback, Sloane and others who have attended the various park meetings at his office say the response never changes.

"I didn't sense any movement at all in any of the three meetings," said Sloane. "Nothing is possible, only exactly what they have projected is possible. It wasn't a planning session, it was more like a chance for them to be decisive about what they've proposed."

Erlich, who said he has been to five of the meetings in Manhattan, agreed. "I don't think they're accomplishing a hell of a lot, because [Van Valkenburgh] is so set on what he is doing that it doesn't allow anyone else to inject anything else other than that."

Cobble Hill resident Stanley Maurer, who with his wife, Laurie, owns an architecture firm in Brooklyn Heights, had not been to a meeting prior to Monday's.

"That's the first time I've been exposed to his wrath," Maurer said of Van Valkenburgh. "I was broken in."

He said he and his wife were "pretty angry" about the process.

"Some people have actually walked away to his wrath," Maurer said. "I know of a number of people who are just throwing their arms up and saying, 'I'm not getting involved because there's no seeming acceptance of ideas,'" Maurer said.

Sure enough, even the president of the Cobble Hill Association, Murray Adams, who led the drafting of a letter signed by several neighborhood associations urging for an open park planning process, said he "forgot" about Monday's meeting.

"I have to admit it was a slightly deliberate forget," Adams added. "I get awfully tired of hearing the same thing again and again."

Pointing out his suggestion at the first meeting to cut off the piers in order to save the large maintenance and rehabilitation costs they bring with them, and just focus the plan on the uplands, Adams said Van Valkenburgh "assured me he was going to look into this, I didn't hear any response to that at all. Or indeed, to any of my questions."

"I don't think they're listening," said Adams. "They don't seem to care."



Trains sit between rush hours at the Long Island Railroad yard at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues. Beyond them are Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Terminal and Atlantic Center malls and offices, as well as the Williamsburg Savings Bank building.

## RATNER...

Continued from page 1

million. And while the Jets and the MTA seemed headed for binding arbitration for the West Side site — the Jets have offered \$100 million while the MTA is seeking \$300 million for a one-third share of the air rights — Cablevision, the owner of Madison Square Garden and the Knicks and Rangers, threw a monkey wrench into the works last week.

An ardent opponent of the Jets plan, Cablevision offered the MTA \$600 million on Friday for the West Side air rights, dwarfing the Jets' bid. On Wednesday, Kalklow told Cablevision officials they had until Friday, Feb. 11, to provide details of the unsolicited proposal.

Kalklow told The New York Times, however, that getting the highest price for the transit system outweighed the mayor's desire to bring the Olympics to New York City.

"As important as the Olympics are, my main criteria is getting the best deal for the MTA," Kalklow told The Times. "Though the Cablevision bid was deemed as a 'publicity stunt' by both the mayor and officials with the football team, the notion of competitive bidding for the site gave Brooklynites who oppose Ratner's plan a beacon of hope."

"We've been demanding for the past year that the MTA should issue requests for proposals," said Patti Hagan, who lives near the site of the proposed Nets arena. She said she knew of at least one idea by a developer for the Vanderbilt Avenue end of the site.

"It's wonderful to hear," Hagan said.

Daniel Goldstein, lead organizer of Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn, a grassroots organization formed in opposition to Ratner's arena proposal, also was glad to hear about the bid.

"It says that these kind of properties need to be bid on to be actually putting out a market value," said Goldstein, a vocal holdout among condominium owners in the Atlantic Yards plan area who have largely agreed to sell their apartments to Ratner.

Goldstein said an ongoing would be far more democratic a process than relying on arbitration to determine the value of the MTA-owned development rights.

"Perhaps some developers would be emboldened and try and do a similar thing with the Atlantic Yards," he said hopefully.

Brian Hatch, who was a deputy mayor of Salt Lake City, Utah, during the 2002 Winter Olympics there, said the hearing, led by Westchester Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, was a reminder that there are "options and maybe that should be something we shouldn't forget about."

Said Hatch, who now lives in New York, "I think it's a similar argument as, 'Well, the Nets are here and ready to go, and no one else is here, so let's go.'"

As a result, he said, people get bullied into certain developments.

"If there's a blight on the West Side, at this point it's a mayoral blight, because no developer in their right mind would take him on," with an alternative bid, said Hatch.

"If the mayor says 'This is a priority for us,' then all the developers fall into line."

Tom Kelly, a spokesman for the MTA, told The Brooklyn Papers this week that the state-

run agency would be happy to entertain other bids on the Atlantic Avenue rail yards.

"Sure we would, sure we'd entertain it," Kelly said. "The thing you don't want to lose sight of is that land had been there for 20 to 30 years, and nobody ever came forward to develop it. It's not a secret that we own the land, and it's not a secret that we're willing to sell it. But other than a few inquiries we've never had anybody come forward with a serious offer."

But Councilwoman Letitia James, in whose district the Ratner plan sits, said that is simply not true.

We know there are many developers who are interested in developing those yards," said James, who said she was glad to hear open bidding would be considered.

"It's encouraging news that the MTA is going to open up the process and look at other proposals," the councilwoman said. "I will be looking at other developers who have contacted me and see if they will adopt the UNITY plan."

That plan, designed by local architect Marshall Brown, replaces the area with housing and requires no property condemnations. It has been gaining steam among community groups in the surrounding neighborhoods and in light of open bidding could become a viable reality provided a developer or a partnership of developers wanted to put up the money. [The UNITY plan will be presented at a joint meeting of the Boerum Hill Association and Hoyt Street Association on Feb. 16 at the YWCA at 30 Third Ave.]

Assemblyman Brodsky said it is up to the MTA to take seriously the bid by Cablevision, and he called the arbitration that the Jets and MTA have agreed upon to determine the cost of the land "a very undesirable route."

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# More 'Remembrance'

## Ballpark 9-11 memorial to be expanded

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

As part of an effort to add names and faces of 9-11 heroes from throughout the city, organizers of the "Brooklyn Wall of Remembrance" say they may drop the word "Brooklyn" from the Coney Island memorial. Until now, the memorial was reserved for first responders to the World Trade Center who had ties to Brooklyn.

The name tweak and structural expansion, which could be completed this year, would erase the wall's distinction as the city's only memorial to set apart firefighters and police who either lived or worked in Brooklyn on Sept. 11, 2001.

The reversal, say some, threatens to diminish the prominence of those names at a time when 9-11 tributes city-wide are recognizing the complications of recognizing certain individuals while excluding others.

"Originally, it was all Brooklyn," said Helen Lake, whose firefighter son, Billy Lake of Bay Ridge, died inside the North Tower.

"I wouldn't want to hurt anyone's feelings and say, 'No,' — I would never want to slight anyone — but the intention was to honor the Brooklyn people, and maybe it should stay that way."

Sol Moglen, founder of the Ebbets Field Wall of Remembrance Foundation responsible for the Coney Island memorial on a wall of KeySpan Park facing the minor-league ballpark's parking lot, said the decision to transcend Brooklyn stems from his deepening relationship with the New York Fire Department, which in November named him an honorary battalion chief.

When he first proposed the KeySpan Park memorial, which features the names, brief bios and laser-engraved faces of the borough's finest and bravest who lost their lives in the World Trade Center, Moglen, the owner of a plastics company in New Jersey, knew not a single firefighter. But since the memorial's unveiling in December 2002, when it consisted of 116 firefighters, many of the victims' families have come forward to thank him.

Now, following the inclusion last year of 21 more firefighters and 18 officers of the NYPD and Port Authority Police Department, Moglen said that he feels obligated to add 256 more first responders to the existing 155.

As proposed, the memorial's official name would be changed from the "Brooklyn

## Prattstore galore

Award-winning author and Pratt Institute alumna Betsy Lewin signs books at the grand opening on Jan. 27 of Prattstore, 550 Myrtle Ave. at Emerson Place, which will carry art supplies and art and design books for the school and community. Below, Architect Richard Scherr (center), who designed Prattstore and its interior, with Aydin and Mary Ermez.



Wall of Remembrance" to the "Tribute Walk of Remembrance." Once funds are raised, said Moglen, the list of names would expand on both sides of the wall to include an additional 211 firefighters, 12 police officers, 30 Port Authority employees and three New York State court officers.

"The overall is that a lot of the families are still hurting and have no place to go," said Moglen, 65. "As an honorary battalion chief, I'm so close to these fallen brothers now that I need to finish the task. What I want is to see it completed."

But some family members of Brooklyn heroes, like Helen Lake, contend that the push for inclusiveness would render generic the memorial that families in the borough have come to pride as their own intimate tribute.

Far from an anomaly, however, the decision would mirror that of officials behind another memorial being realized in Brooklyn, for the 69th Street Pier in Bay Ridge, which after much debate was designed to include all 283 of the borough's 9-11 casualties and not only uniformed personnel.

Spearheaded by "Brooklyn Remembers," the memorial was first envisioned as a shrine to those who lived or worked in community boards 10 and 11, which encompass Bath Beach, Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights and Gravesend. But following worries that those boundaries would be contested, either by families living on the fringes or those with more tenuous connections to the area, board members voted to include the entirety of the borough's victims, without individual names. While some in the

group believe that the 25-foot sculpture, called "Beacon," will be reconfigured to identify individuals, as is, the depiction of a firefighter's trumpet on end simply reads, "Brooklyn Remembers."

Likewise, other memorials either list all of the city's victims or none at all. For others, like Alice Henry, whose son Joseph Henry, a firefighter, was initially excluded from the wall because of an early policy to only recognize those who worked in Brooklyn, expanding the wall can only be a good thing.

"Anytime I'm there, there's always people there," said Henry. "People from all over. I've met people from England there and Ireland. They just feel it's a very nice memorial for them and I do too. So, I think it's a good idea to expand it."

Asked to differentiate between the memorial in Bay Ridge and his in Coney Island, Moglen cited location as the prevailing importance of the wall at KeySpan Park, home to the Brooklyn Cyclones baseball team.

"The difference, really, is that 69th Street doesn't get 280,000 fans that come to Coney Island each season to see baseball," said Moglen.

The memorial's expansion is estimated to cost \$40,000, which Moglen hopes to solicit from, among other organizations and businesses, Forest City Ratner, the development company seeking to build a basketball arena and residential and business complex in Prospect Heights.

Because the request has not been delivered, a Forest City Ratner spokesman declined to comment. If accepted, the company's contributions would join those of Manhattan's Second Avenue Deli, KeySpan Energy, Astroland Park and an undisclosed sum donated by the brother of Donald Trump, among others. The original memorial, said Moglen, initially cost \$140,000, a figure that increased by \$60,000 once it was determined in 2003 that the 20-foot wall would be extended by 6 feet and a second round of 39 additional first responders added.

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## Dead in DUMBO

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

A man's naked body was found Tuesday night inside an abandoned motor home parked on Main Street at Water Street in DUMBO.

Neighbors at 1 Main St., a condominium at the end of the block, called police on Feb. 8 because the 2004 RV, which appeared to belong to a film crew, had been parked in the intersection over the past week.

Police at the 84th Precinct were notified when neighbors called them just after 7 pm saying the van had been suspiciously in the same place all day.

Upon their arrival the investigating officers inspected the vehicle and found the body of a 49-year-old white male inside. No signs of trauma were evident, according to police. The Daily News reported that the man's shirt and

pants were on the floor nearby, but investigators were unsure why he was naked when found.

Though the medical examiner's office said the cause and circumstances of the man's death were still under investigation at press time, a police source said, "It was nothing really suspicious — he died of a heart attack."

A spokesman at the city medical examiner's office identified the man as Joseph DeJoseph, and according to a man who identified himself as the victim's father, he leaves behind a wife and daughter.

"That's my son," said Joseph DeJoseph Sr., when The Brooklyn Papers called his Howard Beach home on Wednesday.

"He died of a heart attack," said DeJoseph Sr., who told The Papers he'd been notified earlier in the day by city officials of his son's death. "They already contacted my daughter-in-law and my granddaughter," he said.

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# Calls Park coverage "new journalism"

To the editor:

Your paper's coverage of the Brooklyn Bridge Park plans, which are filled with blood-pumping, blaring headlines, and red-hot terms like "highly controversial," "damned," "infuriated," and "hopping mad" bring to mind another era in journalism. It was called Yellow Journalism.

It was summed up neatly by William Randolph Hearst when he sent Frederic Remington off to get some pictures of a war in Cuba in 1898. The great newspaperman said to the doubtful artist, "You furnish the pictures and I'll furnish the war." And he did.

In the same vein, with a great park at stake, you are taking the hot words of a handful of people with an obstructionist agenda and blowing them up into Weekly War Coverage.

Such coverage may be temporarily good for your circulation but it is an irresponsible

sub to the long-term interest of the entire Brooklyn community. — Martin L. Schneider, Brooklyn Heights

## Former CB6er slams board

To the editor:

Thank you for the extensive coverage you awarded my resignation from Community Board 6 ("Claiming CB6 doesn't care about Red Hook, members step down," Jan. 29). I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns regarding the blatant conflicts of interest reflected in community board actions to a wider audience, particularly since the board chair himself did not find my concerns worth mentioning to my former colleagues.

I wanted to alert you and your readers to a couple of additional thoughts your articles provoked, and to respond to a few of the comments made by others in your article. First, I appreciate the fact that Council-

## LETTERS

woman [Sara] Gonzalez regrets my departure. I have not heard anything from her office personally, but at least she saw fit to express her dismay to the press. Second, I applaud the "Borough Hall source" who referred you to the board census taken by CB6 last year. I think it is high time that an independent source conduct such a census and publish the results. Although several board members, including myself, have asked, CB6 does not release members' addresses, so a census is difficult to conduct. Borough Hall should definitely get involved in this issue, and take responsibility for seeing to it that CB6 and all community boards are overuses are representative.

As regards the Red Hook Ica project, I have made an official complaint to the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board regarding the scheduling of last year's CB6 Executive Committee "Informational meeting on Ica," which was held prior to the project EIS scope's having been certified by City Planning. It is my assumption that [CB6 Chairman] Jerry Arner was informed of the impending approval of the application by Yowsein New York. The board's resultant hosting of what amounted to an hour-long pro-Ica commercial in advance of any public hearing or even a certified land use application, however, strikes me as a severe violation of community board ethics.

Lastly, Greg O'Connell, who owns almost the entire Red Hook waterfront, is "coincidentally" also the co-chair of the CB6 Waterfront and Economic Development committee. CB6 is "opposed to spot zoning" to quote Jerry Arner and therefore voted against the Indus Street lot conversion. They, however, approved a rather extensive zoning change (from land manufacturing to mixed-use) so that Mr. O'Connell could purchase the last city-owned waterfront building (480-500 Van Brunt St.) and convert it to a Fairway supermarket with market-rate residential units on top.

Oddly, Mr. O'Connell "almost single-handedly" killed the proposed down-zoning of the entire Red Hook waterfront as proposed in the community's version of the 1974 Plan. The quotation is from Joe Rose, former City Planning Commission chairman, who noted that when Mr. O'Connell came before the commission requesting the zoning variance for his Fairway development.

The complaint made by the industrial business owners that land prices and rents are rising due to residential conversion ignores the fact that the construction of "big box" stores like Ikea and Fairway are equally as likely to be behind rising land prices as a relatively limited number of residential conversions.

I thank you for your excellent coverage of Red Hook issues. In closing, I would like to re-emphasize New York City's "almost unanimous" support for Ica they cite did not include the yes votes of four of the five Red Hook residents on the board. From Red Hook's perspective, that is a resounding rejection.

— Eddie Stone, Red Hook

## Send us a letter

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned.

During board meetings, even if one gets the opportunity to ask a question, there is no follow-up allowed, so that discussion becomes random and many questions, especially those of independent folks like Edie, are never answered.

Community board members should be subjected to the same term limits as the politicians who appoint them. That would go a long way to making those boards — and in particular CB6 — more representative of the community.

— Susan Peebles, Red Hook

## Cites errors in Poly prep

To the editor:

The article in your Jan. 22 issue about Poly Prep's proposed expansion in Park Slope ("Poly expansion strikes out") is so full of factual errors that one must conclude that your reporter did not attend the meeting of the landmarks committee of CB6 on Jan. 11 about which he reports.

Perhaps the most glaring error is your statement that the CB6 landmarks committee approved Poly's design with two exceptions. In fact, the committee on Jan. 11 unanimously rejected the design and left no doubt that they thought it was quite inadequate.

You then focused on an earlier meeting of the Park Slope Civic Council that took place on Jan. 6. There was no mention of the overwhelming sentiment expressed by the community at the landmarks committee meeting, including an experienced architect who called the design totally lacking in quality, a presentation on the great architectural significance of Poly's current building and the presentation of nearly 1,000 signatures on petitions opposing Poly's plans. There is not a word about any of this.

Finally, you quote Jan. 22 Franks at length in your article immediately after quoting Bob Levine, chairman of the CB6 landmarks committee. Mr. Franks did not utter a word during the landmarks [committee] meeting, nor did James Dempsey, whom you also quote and who [was not at the meeting].

You also state that in December the landmarks committee acted in response to community complaints when it told Poly to get community opinion. In fact, at the time the committee spoke with Poly in December, no community members were present because Poly had not told the community of its plans at all. To its credit, CB6 insisted that Poly inform the community, and since then the community has been telling Poly that it thinks the plans are woefully inadequate.

Contrary to how Poly's architect is quoted in your article, we are hardly "frustrated." In fact, we are more encouraged than ever that Poly will be directed to go back to the drawing board and work with landmarks and the community in the appropriate manner.

— Carole Taylor, Concerned Neighbors of Poly Prep

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

February 12, 2005

# Dipping with love

Having fun with fondue — and each other — on Feb. 14

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

There's nothing sweeter than celebrating Valentine's Day, a day devoted to love and keeping the home fires burning. But when it's me in the kitchen cooking up a romantic dinner for two, it seems that everything's aflame — my apron, the drapes, the roast.

So listen up: culinarily compromised romantics — men and women alike — because I have discovered the secret to a memorable, fun and sexy dinner: fondue for two.

Need more convincing? This year, Valentine's Day falls on a Monday, so if you'd rather entertain in the warmth of your home, Hugh Hefner-style in your PJs, rather than braving the cold, Fresh Direct has created several fondue-for-two packages that are ready to be delivered to your door. (Provided, that is, that you are in one of their delivery areas, which you can determine on their Web site.)

Fresh Direct chef Michael Stark, formerly of Tribeca Grill, has created four sumptuous fondue-for-two menus that considerably decrease the amount of time you spend in the kitchen and increase the amount of fun you'll have playing with your food. (And I promise, you'll enjoy tipping the intrepid delivery personnel less than the 15 percent you'll fork

over at a restaurant!)

Best of all, you get to take credit for the feast, without having to go to the grocery store or doing hours of food prep. (To be able to really take all the credit, remember to hide the cardboard boxes with "Fresh Direct" emblazoned on them in your closet.)

My husband and I sampled Fresh Direct's classic cheese fondue-for-two and their meat fondue-for-two with positive results. With this promotion, Fresh Direct customers have the choice of ordering the fondue-for-two with or without the fondue pot. Despite two bridal showers and a wedding, we had remained fondue pot-less, so we merrily chose the more expensive with-pot option.

We felt that the fondue-for-two that we sampled were a great value, because they came with a Caesar salad, the fondue entree, the chocolate

dessert and breakfast in bed for the following day.

To begin, the fondue-for-two are as fancy or as casual as you want to make them. Use china and crystal or disposable plates.

You also provide the bottle of wine, champagne or beer that will help both of you ease out of work mode and into your evening together. The delivery comes with clear, step-by-step instructions to help you do the minimal preparation that remains to be done.



Say cheese: The cheese fondue-for-two includes a Caesar salad and loaves of bread, fruits, vegetables and cubed ham for dipping.



Berry nice: Each fondue-for-two package from Fresh Direct comes with strawberries, pineapple and poundcake to dip in melted chocolate in a chocolate bread bowl.

First, we cracked open the salad. The crispy Caesar salad — it is included with all of the fondue-for-two — came with little packages of Parmesan cheese, hearty crostons and dressing. All that was needed was a bowl to toss it in.

With the cheese fondue, a container full of Gruyere and Swiss cheeses, white wine and garlic is melted in the microwave and poured into the fondue pot. Cubed ham, pre-cooked fingerling and cremer potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower florets, a ripe green apple and a potato-perfect cluster of green grapes are provided for dipping with long skewers along with French bread. We enjoyed the different flavor combinations. Our only complaint was that the majority of the vegetables — potatoes and cauliflower — was noticeably monochromatic.

With the meat fondue-for-two, perfect cubes of raw filet mignon, prime rib and loin of lamb arrive in a container already garnished with greenery, so it's easy to make an inviting display when transferred to a serving platter. (We recommend pre-seasoning them with a sprinkle of sea salt and pepper while you heat the oil for the fondue pot.)

The elaborate fondue pot set came with little dishes to serve the sauces, as well as safflower oil (to fry the meat) and Slemo to keep the oil warm in the pot.

While the meat fondue also comes with the Caesar salad, vegetables and two loaves of bread, instead of cheese, the oil is preheated on the stove and poured into the fondue pot. For novice cooks, this seemed the most potentially dangerous task, as the directions instructed me to heat the oil to 370 degrees — which can be difficult to gauge for someone who doesn't have an appropriate thermometer — or until a piece of bread thrown into the oil browns quickly.

Because I was overcautious (two fire trucks came by my rescue the last time I heated oil), the oil seemed to take forever to warm. For those who identify with my cooking-with-oil anxiety, I say, just keep a fire extinguisher handy.

After the oil is heated on the stove and then transferred to the fondue pot, the fun begins. We were supplied five sauces to dip the cooked meat cubes: a mild, buttery pesto mayo; a nasal passage-clearing mustard black pepper; a mild Asian peanut dip; (too) sweet teriyaki glaze; and a frothy, creamy wasabi dip. We enjoyed sampling the different sauces on the meat and even on the assorted pre-cooked vegetables. (With the meat fondue, the crimini mushrooms and sunchoke were promised on the label were missing.)

But there was more to come. Rather than having to wash out the fondue pot for reuse, we poured the chocolate dipping sauce (after it was heated in the microwave) into the pre-baked mini chocolate bowl (bread bowl).

When I was younger, I thought only a bouquet of long-stemmed red roses could set my heart aflutter. Now, I find that the sight of long-stemmed, lusciously ripe strawberries has the same effect.

Imagine dipping the gargantuan berries as well as fresh, juicy chunks of pineapple and slices of moist, weighty pound cake into quality melted chocolate.

This was our downfall. There was hardly any energy left for a goodnight smooch with chocolate-smudged lips after we greedily chomped down all of that fruit and cake. (We did summon the strength to store the leftover chocolate-filled bowl in the fridge for another day.)

Yet somehow, despite the glutony, one can still awake hungry for breakfast the next morning. The last Fresh Direct box yielded coffee, fresh-squeezed orange juice from Lambeth Groves, fruit salad and four buttery croissants that were positively perfect after five minutes in the oven. It gave us the fortitude to wipe off the safflower oil splatters from the stovepot and wash the dinner dishes. The whole experience left us wishing that Valentine's Day would arrive more than once a year. Perhaps now that we have our fondue pot, it will.

## MUSIC

### Forbidden love

"Aida" was Giuseppe Verdi's final grand opera. Indeed, when he returned to composing operas after a 16-year retirement following "Aida," Verdi turned to Shakespearean sources to create his final two masterpieces, "Otello" and "Falstaff."

Perhaps the composer felt he couldn't go any further with grand opera after "Aida." After all, it contains everything audiences wanted — and still want — from Verdi: forbidden romance (between an Egyptian officer and an enslaved Ethiopian princess), exotic locations, a tragic ending and, best of all, Verdi's soul-stirring music.

For its first Brooklyn Center appearance, on Feb. 13 at 2 p.m., Opera Verdi Europa (pictured) would seem to have all the ingredients in place to do justice to both Verdi's classic score and the demands of one of his most beloved operas: the orchestra's lavish productions have been praised wherever they perform, particularly during their debut tour of the United States in 2003. Italian conductor Luciano Di Martino leads the orchestra.

Formed in 1996 by Ivan Kyrkchiev in Bulgaria, Opera Verdi Europa consists of more than 100 of the best musicians and performers, and their "Aida" should be the ideal Valentine's date ... for lovers of tragic opera.

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts' Whitman Theatre is located one block from the junction of Nostrand and Flatbush avenues. Tickets are \$40. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.brooklyncenter.org](http://www.brooklyncenter.org). — Kevin Filipksi

## SINGLES

### Sex-sea night

Valentine's Day is looming, but you're still single? Why not take the plunge into the New York Aquarium's mixer, "Sex in the Sea."

On Feb. 12, singles can learn about harems, polygamy, hermaphroditism — among sea creatures — while surreptitiously scouting out other singles. Over wine and cheese, attendees can make new friends and tour the Aquarium to discover how marine animals, such as the penguins, at night, fall in love, er, procreate.

The event takes place from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and is limited to singles age 21 and older. Admission is \$34 and includes beer and wine, hors d'oeuvres and on-site parking. For reservations, call (718) 265-3448. The Aquarium is located on Surf Avenue at West Eighth Street in Coney Island. — Lisa J. Curtis

## CINEMA

### Talking sex

Attention Romeo wannabes and aspiring Lethario: as part of its "Best of the African Diaspora Film Festival," BAMcinematek will screen Mya B's four-part documentary, "Silence: In Search of Black Female Sexuality." The Fort Greene filmmaker's doc, which explores issues of female sexuality in black culture, will be screened on Valentine's Day at 6:50 p.m. (followed by a Q&A with Mya B, pictured) and Feb. 15 at 4:30 p.m.

In "Silence," black women in Chicago, of all backgrounds and professions, speak out for the first time about their sexual wants, needs and desires, aiming to clarify historical sexual misconceptions about black women and reveal the truth about their sexuality in their own words.

BAMcinematek is located at 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. Tickets are \$10; \$7 for students 25 and under (with valid I.D. Monday through Thursday, except holidays) and seniors. For more information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org). — Lisa J. Curtis

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# BROOKLYNites

Valentine's Day Advertiser Dining Guide

**Cantina**  
494 Fourth Ave. at 11th Street, (718) 369-5850 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.50-\$14.95

On the edge of Park Slope, you'll find owner Esteban Chava's dark and sultry Mexican restaurant with 13 margarita flavors and more than 30 varieties of specialty tequila. Chef Juan Carreon makes "chiles rellenos," a mild poblano chili filled with cheese, battered to a crisp, and topped with a dollop of chili sauce made with tomato, jalapeno and a touch of the pungent haba peppers. For the "chiles en nogada," he fills a poblano pepper with picadillo, a mixture of ground beef, finely chopped onion, grated orange peel and dark raisins, and coats it in a tangy, nutty light sauce topped with pomegranate seeds. On Valentine's Day, Carreon will offer a special dish. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

**Cielo Cafe**  
243 Degraw Street at Clinton Street, (718) 643-1588 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa), Entrees: \$9.50-\$11.50.

Owner Joseph Martuscello proudly declares that everything at Cielo Cafe is made on the premises, where chef Andrea Ramsey serves a variety of specialties, including the capon classic burger, baked salmon, pork vindaloo and southern fried chicken with sweet potato fries. For dessert, Martuscello recommends the warm peach cobbler. Themed weekend brunches are served from 10 am to 3 pm. Open Tuesday through Sunday, for lunch and dinner. On Feb. 14, a three-course Valentine's Day dinner will be served.

**Dish**  
9208 Third Ave. at 92nd Street, (718) 238-2323 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$50.

Amid bamboo plants and leather sofas, waiters serve up chef Jeff Lam's wide range of sushi, sashimi and noodles in this Asian-French fusion restaurant. The house cocktail is a lichee martini made with lichee and lime juices. Choose from appetizers like "Lord of the Ring" (baked salmon with crab meat) or "Dynamite" (baked scallop, shrimp and mushroom). The funky list of specialty rolls includes the "Firehouse" (shrimp tempura and banana topped with spicy tuna) and the "Excellent" (smoked salmon, oysters, asparagus, onion, miso and mayo topped with black and red tobiko). The sushi bar lunch special is \$10 and includes any two rolls served with soup or salad. A year garden accommodates 60 diners. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, chef Lam offers 20 percent off your entire bill. For Valentine's Day, a five-course, \$45 prix fixe dinner with a complimentary bottle of wine will be served.

**El Huipil**  
1164 Sullivan St. at Coney Street, (718) 855-4548, (Cash only) Entrees: \$4.95-\$8.95.

Opened in mid-October, El Huipil restaurant is styled after a traditional Mexican "fonda," where families and people of all economic backgrounds are welcome to come and enjoy, explained owner Megan Serrano. There are many finger foods offered, such as tamales, deep-fried tacos and quesadillas; families or groups of diners can order many a share. Serrano recommends Chef Jesus

Serrano's signature appetizer, the nachos "Don Chacho," which has steamed chipotle chicken with onions and avocado, cream and some cheese "which is nice with cheese." Chef Jesus (Megan's husband) cooks dishes influenced by the flavors from his hometown in the mountains of Guerrero—and from the kitchen of his mother, Heleodora "Lolita" Viaz. Megan says this is very different from Tex-Mex cuisine, which features lots of melted cheeses and creams. "We have really authentic food," she said. "For example, we have rich complex mole sauces over our chicken—it's not smothered in cheese."

Jesús' menu features vegetarian options (in part, because Megan is a vegetarian) such as soup, a vegetarian tamale, cañitas salad, soups and more. This intimate restaurant, which seats 22, features artwork by Mexican folk artists including a traditional woven rug, the huipil, which the restaurant is named for. Ask about special dishes on Valentine's Day.

El Huipil serves lunch and dinner daily, and breakfast is served from 11 am to closing.

**Grand Prospect Hall**  
263 Prospect Ave. at Fifth Avenue, (718) 788-0777, www.grandprospecthall.com.

Located in a historic building, Grand Prospect Hall, executive chef Michael Aytes serves up surf and turf with fusion touches and magnificent fish entrees using only market-fresh ingredients. The Oak Room's glamorous main dining room features a walk-to-wall mural of a hunting scene with its bugle-shaped sconces and gold brocade chairs that accompany expansive round tables. Call ahead for their live music lineup on Saturday nights. On Valentine's Day, festivities begin at noon with live music and a complimentary rose for the ladies. A three-course, \$35 prix-fixe menu will be offered from noon until 5 pm, with a \$70 prix-fixe menu from 7 pm until midnight.

**Graziella's**  
232 Vanderbilt Ave. at DeKalb Avenue, (718) 789-5443 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa), Entrees: \$11-\$17.

Last May, Louis Devo and Vito Randazzo opened the doors at Graziella's to Italian food lovers in Clinton Hill. In addition to friendly servers, a blazing fire from an authentic wood-burning brick oven greets customers in the dining room, where Antonio Iannelli bakes all kinds of pizza. One of his specialties is the "peasatore pizza" covered with various types of "peasatore" (smoked) meats, such as the beef lasagna with fresh mozzarella. One of head chef Milton Rader's specialties is the seafood risotto. From May through September, take advantage of the rooftop dining with a view of the Manhattan skyline. Open daily for lunch and dinner. A four-course, \$50 prix fixe Valentine's Day dinner will be served.

**Lichee Nut**  
162 Montague St. at Clinton Street, (718) 522-5555 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa), Entrees: \$6.50-\$12.95.

This Brooklyn Heights Chinese restaurant has several locations, owners and chefs, but throughout has maintained the high quality that has kept customers coming back for more than 20 years. Owner Jerry Shen has dedicated himself to keeping the restaurant's fare authentic. Chef Eric Wu cooks in both Szechuan and Cantonese styles and prepares a broad spectrum of dishes. The house special is a generous plate of jumbo shrimp sautéed with Chinese vegetables and

rice. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

**Marco Polo Ristorante**  
345 Court St. at Union Street, (718) 852-5015, www.marcopoloristorante.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12.95-\$18.95.

One of Brooklyn's most elegant dining rooms, Marco Polo boasts valet parking, a formally dressed and knowledgeable wait staff and a sophisticated menu that reflects the taste of its owner, Joe Cirincio, a veteran restaurateur. Marco Polo has an Italian menu that includes an array of hot and cold appetizers, soups, salads, homemade pasta, fish, chicken, veal, steaks and chops prepared by chef Bruno Basso. The dessert features pastries, cakes, tortes, fruits, sorbet and the homemade gelato. Marco Polo is best known for its tableside preparation. At your

request, the chef will prepare a dish to your liking.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, husband-and-wife team Jan Payton and Naomi Josepher have opened The Chocolate Room, a chocolate boutique and dessert emporium on Park Slope's Fifth Avenue.

The cafe-cum-retail shop's offerings include chocolate crepes with caramelized pears and fresh whipped cream, espresso chocolate flan with dulce de leche ice cream, and chocolate fondue for two with fresh fruit, pound cake and homemade marshmallows. The cafe also offers cupcakes, cookies and brownies.

On Feb. 14, pastry chef Margaret Kyle, whose training at the Institute for Culinary Education included a stint at Manhattan's Aureole, will add molten chocolate cake flavored with cinnamon, cloves and ancho chili to the menu. Dyr-



**Be mine:** Marco Polo chef Bruno Milone is offering a romantic menu for Valentine's Day in his Carroll Gardens restaurant.

licee nuts — which, by the way, are not nuts at all, but actually large seeds containing sweet and succulent built. Open Monday through Saturday (for lunch and dinner) and Sunday from 2 pm to 10 pm.

**The Oak Room Super Club**  
(at Grand Prospect Hall) 263 Prospect Ave. at Fifth Avenue, (718) 788-0777, www.grandprospecthall.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$18-\$30.

In the Oak Room Restaurant & Super Club, contained within the ornate, restored 114-year-old Grand Prospect Hall, executive chef Michael Aytes serves up surf and turf with fusion touches and magnificent fish entrees using only market-fresh ingredients. The Oak Room's glamorous main dining room features a walk-to-wall mural of a hunting scene with its bugle-shaped sconces and gold brocade chairs that accompany expansive round tables. Call ahead for their live music lineup on Saturday nights. On Valentine's Day, festivities begin at noon with live music and a complimentary rose for the ladies. A three-course, \$35 prix-fixe menu will be offered from noon until 5 pm, with a \$70 prix-fixe menu from 7 pm until midnight.

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request, the chef will prepare a dish to your liking.

**Michael's**  
2929 Ave. R at Nostrand Avenue, (718) 998-7851, www.michaelsbrooklyn.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$18-\$30.

More than 40 years ago, Michael Cacace opened a small pizzeria with three tables and a takeout window. Today, his sons Fred and John preside over an elegant restaurant in Sheepshead Bay with a spacious dining room and linen-covered tables. A pianist plays every night on a baby grand. Chef John Pesci's hot seafood antipasto for two includes grilled octopus, calamari, oysters, shrimp, scallop, baked cakes and mussels mariniere. A four-course, \$55 prix-fixe menu will be offered from 7 pm until midnight.

**Pearl Room**  
8201 Third Ave. at 82nd Street, (718) 832-6666 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12-\$26.

This elegantly appointed, 6,500-sq-ft restaurant offers American cuisine with an emphasis on fresh seafood. Chef and owner Anthony Rinaldi's latest specials include avocado crab Napoleon with "lemon leblanc" (Rinaldi's own creamy white-wine-lemon sauce), and an oven-roasted Persian snapper with fresh crab meat and truffle sauce. But Pearl Room also files fish, mignonette, shell steaks, chicken and veal dishes, salads and pastas. The catanulope-sized vanilla ice cream ball — fried in banana bread — is a

must-try. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

**Samm's**  
8901 Third Ave. at 89th Street, (718) 238-0066 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$17-\$26.

Along with subdued lighting and the sounds of jazz, Samm's offers a raw bar with littleneck clams, oysters or jumbo shrimp served with tomato and cocktail sauce. Appetizers include warm homemade "bocconcini" (fatte mozzarella) mozzarella wrapped in prosciutto served over grilled tomatoes and drizzled with balsamic vinaigrette; Prince Edward Island mussels served in a tomato wine and ancho chili garlic sauce; and pan roasted lamb crack cake with mixed greens, tomato-made sauce and remoulade sauce. Entrees range from marinated skirt steak topped with crispy fried onions served in a Market reduction with roasted vegetables and pesto mashed potatoes to the old-fashioned homemade steak and eggs on Tuesday through Sunday for dinner. Closed Monday, except Feb. 14. Look for specials on Valentine's Day weekend.

**Samurai Sam's**  
115 Court St. at State Street, (718) 246-2830, Entrees: \$4-\$6.75.

Try one of Sam's specialties, the "yaki soba" (broasted) noodles and fresh grilled vegetables or teriyaki prawns (includes two skewers of grilled shrimp served on a bed of rice, plus a salad). Appetizers include grilled egg rolls and cucumber rolls. Chicken, steak or vegetable teriyaki wings are served with green pepper, onion, cabbage and zucchini, wrapped in a fresh fish sauce. Also available: Samurai Sam's famous teriyaki sauce. Party trays are also available. Open Monday through Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed Sundays.

**Taqueria D.F.I.**  
709 Fifth Avenue, (718) 499-2969, www.taqueriadfi.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$7.50.

Owner Pedro Morán serves up "San Francisco Style Cal-Mex" food at Taqueria D.F.I. His menu offers an array of appetizers including a variety of chilis, meat, veggie and veggie, tamales, tostadas and cheese corn on the cob. Mix and match from the lists of soups, salsas, "frescos," burritos, fajitas, enchiladas and quesadillas. Also serves rotisserie chicken. Quench your thirst with something from their juice bar or a Mexican soda. For dessert, Taqueria serves up homemade flan and more. Weekend brunch served from 11 am-4 pm. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

**Toro**  
1 Front St. at Old Fulton Street, (718) 625-0000 (AmEx, MC, Visa), Entrees: \$7-\$28.

Executive chef Dudley Nasto and sous chef Richard Fong create Spanish and Japanese fusion food in this newly opened tapas and sushi lounge. Specialties include the chorizo (grilled skirt steak) with chinchichu sauce and the double-cut pork chop marinated in brine served with wasabi mashed potatoes. "Spanish" ballroom available for private parties. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

**Vesuvio**  
7305 Third Ave. at 73rd Street, (718) 745-0222 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$20.

This charming Bay Ridge restaurant is a pizza parlor on one side and a sophisticated dining room on the other side. Established in 1953, Vesuvio pizza and restaurant will please everyone at your table whether they're in the mood for appetizers and formal entrees or pizzas, burgers and gourmet pizzas. For starters, there's deep-fried mozzarella, hot and cold antipasto platters and "zuppa di mussels." Fresh pasta (fettuccine, tortellini, gnocci and cavatelli) can be topped with a long list of sauces. Among the entrees there's chicken in a rosemary, garlic and olive oil marinade; grilled veal chop; tender veal scallopini; and more. The dessert list features all your favorites: tiramisu, Italian cheesecake, spumoni, tortoni and tartufo.

★ = Full review available at **BrooklynPapers.com**

Abbreviation Key: AmEx=American Express; Disc=Discover; MC=MasterCard; Visa=Visa Card

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must-try delight, says GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis. Open daily for lunch and dinner with a Sunday brunch from 11:30 am to 3 pm. On Feb. 14, a three-course, \$45 prix-fixe Valentine's Day dinner will be offered.

**Pig-N-Out**  
60 Henry St. at Coney Street, (718) 522-5547, (718) 522-5329 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.75-\$19.50.

Rudnick Marino brings barbecue to Brooklyn Heights with Pig-N-Out, offering everything one could want from a grill. From St. Louis-style baby back ribs to good-old hot dogs. Choose from appetizers such as Aubrey's mac & cheese, "Vesuvio" wine and ancho chili, and all smoked meats come with your choice of two sides and you can pick your own barbecue sauce from a list of six. Try the barbecued brisket, spiced Maryland ham marinated in pineapple juice with honey and cayenne pepper, or tangy Carolina pulled pork marinated in apple cider vinegar, ancho chili, cumin and garlic. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

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# Black power

Subtle Changes Dance Co. celebrates 'the godfather of hip-hop,' Gil Scott-Heron

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Subtle Changes Dance Company will present a tribute to the influential poet and musician Gil Scott-Heron at BRIC Studio this month.

Scott-Heron, who was born in 1949, is best known for "The Bottle," "Johannesburg," "Winter in America," and "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised"—political and African-American-centric works that were seminal to the Black Power movement.

The tribute, "The Statement: 7th Draft," has been choreographed by Subtle Change's artistic director, Roger C. Jeffrey, a former member of Twyla Tharp's Tharp!

and Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project. For the 30-year-old choreographer, "The Statement" seems to be an act of love.

"Heron was very brave," Jeffrey told GO Brooklyn. "The questions he asked are very important. There is no one like him in my generation."

It was Scott-Heron's aggressive street poetry and songwriting skills that inspired many contemporary rappers. Despite his contributions, many young African-Americans don't know about

the man Jeffrey calls "the godfather of hip-hop."

"He's not what's happening now," said Jeffrey. "But his voice has more passion than most of my generation has today."

"The Revolution Will Not Be Televised," Heron's most famous song, is a polemic against the major media, which ignored the deteriorating condition of the inner cities.

"In the '70s we got so used to watching television, we did not think we had to get into the battle field," said Jeffrey. "But when the revolution begins, it will not be televised. You'll have to be there."

"The Statement: 7th Draft," which Jeffrey has choreographed for 10 dancers, cele-

## DANCE

"The Statement: 7th Draft" will be performed by Subtle Changes Dance Company on Feb. 18 and Feb. 19 at 8 pm and Feb. 20 at 3 pm. Tickets are \$25. \$50 includes a post-show reception on Feb. 18. BRIC Studio is located at 57 Rockwell Place, 2nd floor, between Dekalb Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene. For tickets and more information, call (718) 527-2011, Ext. 1.

brates poetry and its unique relationship with movement. It also relates to the subject matter about which Scott-Heron wrote and sang. The evening-length work is comprised of 12 vignettes laced with iconic quotes and music from Scott-Heron, with additional music from Dick Gregory, Ryuchi Sakamoto, Donny Hathaway and D'Bari Young.

"There is a duet about two brothers who fight against each other because one brother believes the other isn't



Hommage to Heron: Subtle Changes Dance Company presents "The Statement: 7th Draft," featuring dancer Mayte Naticia.

black enough," Jeffrey said. "There is a solo about a woman's personal journey and her acceptance of her failures as well as her understanding of the next step she has to take—moving past herself and realizing she is her own worst enemy. There is a celebration of the group, because we have to unite out of love and not out of hate. We have to work together out of righteousness."

Guest artists participating in "The Statement" include tap dancer Ayodele Casel, vocalist Sandra Jeffrey, MTV2 host Amanda Diva and author-performer Carl Hancock Rux.

Founded in 1997, Subtle Changes is committed to effecting change through performance and education in the arts. The company has performed at Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Aaron Davis' E-Moves program, the Danon Festival, Jackson Church, P.S. 122 and the Riverside Church.

For Jeffrey, dance is "about whatever I'm feeling or thinking. It's about passion, rhythm and depth—what makes it interesting to dance to." Scott-Heron's anger and fervor have clearly been a motivating force to Jeffrey.

"Gil Scott-Heron's work has continuously inspired me to question and seek answers beyond the common mediocrity," The Statement: 7th Draft has become my most humble approach towards thanking Mr. Heron for his courage, consistency and presence," says Jeffrey. Scott-Heron recently performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center and performs twice a year at SOB's in Manhattan.

"I was taught to praise people while they are still alive," said Jeffrey. "What I'm doing is holding up a large horn [as is traditionally done in Africa] to let people know what's going on, to let everyone know how important [Gil Scott-Heron] is."

# Inspecting Clouzot

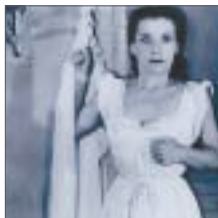
Director's flicks deliver the goosebumps at BAM

By Kevin Filipksi  
for The Brooklyn Papers

The very first image is of cockroaches scurrying on the ground, tied to strings that a boy manipulates. Rarely has a movie begun with such an obvious if potent metaphor for what ensues in the next two and a half hours. But "The Wages of Fear," Henri-Georges Clouzot's masterly 1953 exploration of exploitation, greed and courage amid horrid conditions, actually manages to live up to, and even surpass, that grimy beginning.

As the centerpiece of BAMcinematek's series "Murder and Malice: Henri-Georges Clouzot," "The Wages of Fear" (showing Feb. 19) is one of those movies that, once seen, is never forgotten. Watching four criminals haul trucks loaded with nitroglycerine over forbidding Central American terrain might not seem like most viewers' idea of a good time, and it's definitely not. But that wasn't Clouzot's intent: instead, he created one of the greatest suspense pictures ever made, and its lasting legacy is more than the mere fact that it made French heartthrob Yves Montand into an international star.

Simply put, "The Wages of Fear" is the perfect coalescing of brilliant photography (by Armand Thirard), atmospheric music (by the great composer Georges Auric) and razor-sharp editing (by the trio of Madeleine



Inspired "Psycho": Henri-Georges Clouzot's films, including 1954's influential "Diabolique" (above), will be screened Feb. 18 through March 2 at BAMcinematek.

Gug, E. Muse and Henri Rust). It also contains several scenes that have become iconic: a man squirming while watching the men attempt to cross a rickety wooden bridge, get rid of a huge boulder in their path or drive through a quickly rising pool of mucky oil.

Even though it was a success everywhere it played, the version originally shown in America was heavily cut because of its anti-capitalist themes and dialogue. Needless to say, the original, 150-minute "Wages of Fear"—which is what BAM is showing—is a masterpiece.

The following year came an-

other classic: "Diabolique" (showing Feb. 26). Starring the director's wife Vera Clouzot and Simone Signoret, "Diabolique" is a nail-biting thriller that spawned countless imitators. It even influenced Hitchcock himself, especially Hitch's own bizarre classic, "Psycho."

If you've only seen the tepid 1995 remake with Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjani, you owe it to yourself to see the original, which does for bathubs what "Psycho" did for showers. The last 10 minutes of Clouzot's "Diabolique" are among the most heart-pounding in movie

history: even the many rip-offs that have since come in its wake have not dulled its impact.

The other entries in the series consolidate Clouzot's reputation as a talented maker of thrillers. "The Raven" (1943), opening the series Feb. 18, was only the young director's second feature, but it already showed him to be a master of the genre with its creepy story of a French village's response to an anonymous sender of poison-pen letters that threaten seemingly every prominent person in the village—particularly one Dr. Germain. The parallels between the movie's characters and the then-ongoing Nazi occupation of France were painful for many to stomach.

Still another terrific film noir thriller is 1947's "Quai des Orfèvres" (showing Feb. 27), starring Louis Jouvet as a police inspector investigating an

## CINEMA

"Murder and Malice: Henri-Georges Clouzot" runs at the BAMcinematek, 50 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene from Feb. 18 to March 2. Tickets are \$10. For a complete list of films, screening dates and times, call (718) 625-4100 or visit the Web site at www.bam.org.

"Manon" (Feb. 25) is Clouzot's 1949 adaptation about the squalid life of the beautiful prostitute whose eventual decline climaxes in her death; and the director's penultimate film, 1960's "La Verite" (showing Feb. 24), stars sex kitten Brigitte Bardot in a role that showed that, yes, she could act. The script was written by Clouzot and wife Vera, who died that same year at age 46 of a heart attack, a circumstance eerily similar to the demise of her "Diabolique" character.

Though Clouzot was often called "The French Hitchcock," that moniker ignores the fact that Clouzot was a filmmaker of great finesse and variety. What does the BAM series is a case in point.

"The Mystery of Picasso" (showing March 2) is a fascinating experiment: filming a great artist as he paints in an attempt to divine how art is created. The 1956 movie's spoken introduction begins by lamenting the fact that there is no record of Rembrandt's thoughts as he wrote his poetry or Mozart as he composed his symphonies; however, painters can be captured in the act of creating, and it's more visually interesting to boot.

Picasso paints many canvases in "The Mystery of Picasso," at the age of 75 and showing off his still formidable physique (he's bare-chested), his ego is as large as ever. Clouzot's camera simply records what the man is painting, even if it is, literally, throwaway stuff. (Picasso made the director swear that everything he painted during shooting would be destroyed afterwards, to exist only on film.) A beautiful paean to the mysteries of art, "The Mystery of Picasso" is a wonderful finish to a great director's career.

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**Aida**  
Opera Verdi Europa  
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# BROOKLYN Nightlife

## The Backroom

(Inside Freddy's Bar) 485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7035, [www.thedebbackroom.com](http://www.thedebbackroom.com)

Feb. 12: John Pimental & Friends, 9:30 pm, FREE. Feb. 13: The Beaty Brothers, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 14: Valentine's Day Chick Jazz with Christina Drapkin, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 15: Drake Koo, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 16: The Koolhaas, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 17: Kings County Dory, 8 pm, FREE. Feb. 18: Joe Bland, 9:30 pm, FREE. Feb. 19: Bill King, 9:30 pm, FREE. Feb. 20: Bill King, 9:30 pm, FREE. Feb. 21: Bill King, 9:30 pm, FREE.

## BAM Cafe

30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 634-4100, [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org)

Feb. 12: Inari Liri with special guest Marvin Sewell, 9 pm, \$10 food/drink minimum. Feb. 18: Audio Dystopia and Kudu, 9 pm, \$10 food/drink minimum. Feb. 19: Barbez, 9 pm, \$10 food/drink minimum.

## Barbes

376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, [www.barbesbrooklyn.com](http://www.barbesbrooklyn.com)

Tuesdays: Slave Soul Party, 9 pm, \$8. Wednesdays: "Night of the Rashed Limbs," 9 pm, \$8. Sundays: Stephanie Winstead, 9 pm, \$8. Feb. 12: Radio's Showtelling System, 7:30 pm, River Alexander & His Mad Jazz Hatters, 10 pm, FREE. Feb. 13: Savage Beaters for the Arts, 3 pm, \$10 suggested donation. Denise Rodman & the Alphabet Lounge live local featuring Ray Nathanson, 7 pm, \$10. Feb. 14: A Night of Yellow Blues with Kiamer Cabaret, 9:30 pm, \$10. Feb. 15: Jerry Schimone, 7 pm, FREE. Feb. 16: Matt Hawks, 8 pm, \$8. John O'Gallagher's Azules, 10 pm, \$8. Feb. 17: The Alien Barber Noses, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 18: The 13 Guitars, 8 pm, FREE. The Moonlighting, 10 pm, FREE. Feb. 19: Adam Lane Trio featuring Viny Golia, 7 pm, Gita Carter & the Extremes, 9 pm, Ethan Lipson & his orchestra, 10 pm, FREE.

## Bembe

81 S. Sixth St. at Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 387-5385

Saturdays: Live all-strings live Latin percussion flavors, 9 pm, FREE. Sundays: "Universal Rhythms" with Djs Amanda and Nick, 9 pm, FREE. Mondays: "Cold Hands" with DJ Dillig, 9:30 pm, FREE. Tuesdays: "Hyah" with DJ Queen Majesty, 9 pm, FREE. Wednesdays: "Conversations" with DJ Stefan Amsterdam, 9 pm, FREE. Thursdays: "House" with DJ Nat, 9 pm, FREE. Fridays: "Call to Drum," world beat flavors with DJ Miller Cruz, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 12: DJ Dave Madala, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 19: DJ Maurice, 9 pm, FREE.

## Black Betty

366 Metropolitan Ave. at Haverly Street in Williamsburg, (718) 599-6363, [www.blackbetty.net](http://www.blackbetty.net)

Saturdays: DJ LF Shamam, 11 pm, FREE. Sundays: Brazilian Beat with DJ Susan Margale and DJ Greg Cav, 10 pm, FREE. Mondays: Ray Vinea Anderson and His Love Choir, 10 pm, FREE. Tuesdays: Hot Rods sponsored by Miller High Life, 10 pm, FREE. Wednesdays: Electric Orgy & Balkan dance party with DJ Shinozaki, 9 pm, FREE. Thursdays: The Greenhouse with DJ Munktona and DJ Emkiss, 11 pm, FREE. Fridays: DJ Mike Cruz, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 12: DJ Mike Cruz, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 19: DJ Maurice, 9 pm, FREE.

## Brooklyn Conservatory

66 29 42 Henry St. at Baltic Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 622-3300, [www.brooklynconservatory.com](http://www.brooklynconservatory.com)

Feb. 12: From Dvorak to Ellington with Maurice Peres in honor of Black History Month, 3 pm, FREE.

## The Brooklyn Lyceum

227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 396-7001, [www.gowest.com](http://www.gowest.com)

Feb. 19: Don Sova's Improv Jam, 9 pm, \$5.

## Charleston Bar

174 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 762-8710

Feb. 19: Famous, 8:30 pm, \$10.

## Chocolate Monkey

329 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 813-1073

Saturdays: Expresso a.s. Open Mic Poetry talent showcase, 8 pm, \$5. Sunday Party with DJ Oscar Fuller spinning house, techno and new genres, 11 pm, FREE. Mondays: "Krazy Nanny Sundays" with DJ Ozar and karaoke with Lisa Love, 10 pm, FREE. Feb. 19: \$5 after 9 pm. Tuesdays: "Tuesdays After Work" party, 5 pm, FREE. Wednesdays: "Don't Stop" hosted by Black Wax Records, 10 pm, FREE. Thursdays: Host Terry Billy featuring DJ Ras, live music and karaoke, 8 pm, FREE. Fridays: "Rocky After Work" with live DJ, 5 pm, FREE. Live music and DJ, 9 pm, \$5.

## Cornerstone Bar

1502 Coney Island Rd. at Marborough Road in Flatbush, (718) 406-9027

Tuesdays: Open mic, 8 pm, FREE.

## Crossroads Saloon

2079 Coney Island Ave. at Kings Highway in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 399-9293

Fridays and Saturdays: Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE.

## Europa Night Club

98 Marston Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5721, [www.europacab.com](http://www.europacab.com)

Saturdays: "Saturday VIP" 9 pm, FREE before 10 pm, \$15 after 10 pm. Fridays: Progressive Dance party, 10 pm, FREE before 10:30 pm, \$15 after 10:30 pm. Feb. 12: Randy Johnston Trio, 7:30 pm, \$10. Feb. 13: DJ Patrick, 5 pm, FREE. Feb. 14: DJ Patrick, 5 pm, FREE. Feb. 15: DJ Patrick, 5 pm, FREE. Feb. 16: DJ Patrick, 5 pm, FREE. Feb. 17: DJ Patrick, 5 pm, FREE. Feb. 18: DJ Patrick, 5 pm, FREE. Feb. 19: DJ Patrick, 5 pm, FREE. Feb. 20: DJ Patrick, 5 pm, FREE. Feb. 21: DJ Patrick, 5 pm, FREE.

## Five Spot

459 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 632-8502, [www.fivespot.com](http://www.fivespot.com)

Saturdays: DJ Ali, 6 pm, FREE. Super Lowkey Bros bring weekly live hip-hop and jazz with DJ Tello, 10 pm, \$5. Tuesdays: Hot Dance Comedy Night with DJ Kay, 9 pm, FREE before 7:30 pm, more after. Feb. 13: DJ Patrick, 5 pm, FREE. Connect Entertainment's first live Valentine's Day DJB Showcases, 7 pm, FREE. Feb. 14: DJ Tommy Lutz and Super Lowkey Bros, 8 pm, \$5. Feb. 15: Open mic and jazz jam session with DJ Oliver and Bad Attitude, 9:30 pm, \$5. Feb. 18: DJ Salsala, 6 pm, FREE. Feb. 19: DJ Salsala, 6 pm, FREE. Feb. 20: DJ Salsala, 6 pm, FREE. Feb. 21: DJ Salsala, 6 pm, FREE.

## Frank's Lounge

660 Fulton St. at South Elliott Place in Fort Greene, (718) 625-6539, [www.frankscollounge.com](http://www.frankscollounge.com)

Saturdays: Soulful Saturdays with Djs Tyronne and Infinito, 9 pm, \$5. Mondays: Classics with Djs Keith Porter and James Vincent, 7 pm, \$10. Tuesdays: Mash Up with DJ CK Kickback and special guest, 9 pm, \$10. Wednesdays: Karaoke Wednesdays with Djs Ray & X, 9 pm, FREE. Thursdays: Lounge Thursdays with Djs Blood Brothers, 8 pm, FREE. Fridays: Fun Dance Party, 7:30 pm, \$5.

## free103point9

97 S. Sixth St. (off Broadway) at Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-9355, [www.free103point9.com](http://www.free103point9.com)

Feb. 19: "Seasonal" with Margalida Garcia and Barry Weisblatt, Yoko Nuss, Radio Radio, Ting Ting Jaha, Projector, and Matt Bae, 9 pm, FREE.

## Galapagos

71 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 762-5188, [www.galapagosnyc.com](http://www.galapagosnyc.com)

Sundays: Set and Budj Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE. Mondays: Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE. Tuesdays: Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE. Wednesdays: Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE. Thursdays: Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE. Fridays: Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE. Saturdays: Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE.

## Girl power

On Feb. 14 and Feb. 15 the Brooklyn Committee will present Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" at Galapagos. Proceeds will benefit Safe Horizon.

Washing Machine Benefit with Dink, Gask Farm, The Fama, 2 pm, \$10 suggested donation. Cigars, 11 pm, FREE. Feb. 18: Full to Pop, 7:30 pm, \$20-\$100. Feb. 19: Melrose presents Williamsburg Bedbugs, 8 pm, \$5.

## Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor

(at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture) 53 Prospect Street at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972, [www.bsc.org](http://www.bsc.org)

Feb. 18: Third Friday with the Park Slope Food Co-op featuring Son Come Solo, 8 pm, \$10 adults, \$5 children.

## The Hook

18 Commerce St. at Columbia Street in Red Hook, (718) 797-3007, [www.thehookmusic.com](http://www.thehookmusic.com)

Feb. 12: Kid Congo Powers, Rise NYC, Fluff, 8:30 pm, \$10. Feb. 18: Chris Vibe and Polarlight Records present Famous, 10 pm, \$10. Feb. 19: M&M, midnight. Earls, 11 pm, TEGMA, 2 pm, \$10. Feb. 19: Love's 10th Back, 10 pm, \$10.

## Hope and Anchor

187 Fulton St. at West Street in Red Hook, (718) 237-0278

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays: Karaoke hosted by drag queen Kay Sae, 9 pm, FREE.

## iO Restaurant

519 Kent Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 388-3300, [www.iorestaurantandbar.com](http://www.iorestaurantandbar.com)

Saturdays: DJ spins salsa and house, 10 pm, ladies FREE all night, men \$5 after 11 pm. Mondays: Monday Night Party, 8 pm, FREE. Tuesdays: DJ El spinning hip-hop, house, R&B, reggae and salsa, 9 pm, FREE (23 and over). Fridays: Live jazz featuring The Pines, 8 pm, FREE with 2-drink minimum. DJ spins salsa and house, 10 pm, ladies FREE all night, men \$5 after 11 pm.

## Jazz 966

966 Fulton St. at Cambridge Place in Clinton Hill, (718) 639-8910

Feb. 12: From Dvorak to Ellington with Maurice Peres in honor of Black History Month, 3 pm, FREE.

## The Jazz Spot

179 Marcus Garvey Blvd. at Kosciuszko Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453-7825, [www.thejazzspot.com](http://www.thejazzspot.com)

Sundays: Jazz, 8 pm, \$5. Feb. 12: Andrea Street Quartet, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 13: Billy Strimling Trio, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 14: Andrea Street Quartet, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 15: Billy Strimling Trio, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 16: Andrea Street Quartet, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 17: Billy Strimling Trio, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 18: Andrea Street Quartet, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 19: Billy Strimling Trio, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 20: Andrea Street Quartet, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 21: Billy Strimling Trio, 9 pm, \$10.

## JRQ Fashion Cafe

177 Fulton St. at West Street in Red Hook, (718) 399-7079

Fridays and Saturdays: Live DJ, 11 pm, \$10 after midnight. Mondays: "Mardi Gras" with DJ Nuff, 11 pm, FREE.

## Kill Bar-Cafe

111 Hoyt St. at State Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 855-5574

Tuesdays: Open acoustic, 9 pm, FREE. Fridays: DJ Chopin spin rock, hip-hop and jazz, 10:30 pm, FREE.

## Laila Lounge

113 N. Seventh St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 488-6791, [www.lailalounge.com](http://www.lailalounge.com)

Tuesdays: Jazz, 8 pm, FREE. Wednesdays: Whiskey Brothers with Rick Royle and Alexander Lowy, 9 pm, \$10. Thursdays: Jazz, 8 pm, \$10. Fridays: Karaoke, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 12: "Extraordinary," new gay Sundays with DJ Salsala, 8 pm, FREE. Feb. 14: Karaoke Madness with the Com-Fed Sisters, 10 pm, FREE. Feb. 16: The Dirty Dirty Dirty, 10 pm, \$10. Feb. 18: 10th Anniversary Afro-Latin Massive, 9:30 pm, \$5.

## Le Dakar Restaurant

285 Grand Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 268-0000, [www.le-dakar.com](http://www.le-dakar.com)

Tuesdays: Spoken word, 9 pm, FREE.

## Les Babouches

7803 Third Ave. at 78th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-1700

Fridays and Saturdays: Italian dance Shabazz, 9 pm, FREE.

## Liberty Heights Tap Room

414 New St. at DeWitt Street in Red Hook, (718) 246-8050

Thursdays: Open mic, 8:30 pm, FREE. Fridays: Kitchen Open Jam, 7 pm, FREE.

## Life Cafe 983

983 Flushing Ave. at Central Avenue in Bushwick, (718) 861-1331, [www.life-cafe.com](http://www.life-cafe.com)

Tuesdays: Bling for Bling, 8 pm, FREE. Wednesdays: Open mic with Chuck, 10 pm, FREE.

## Lillie's Bar

46 Bard St. at DeWitt Street in Red Hook, (718) 658-8822

Wednesdays: 8:30 Night with live music and open mic, 8 pm, \$5 (includes all-you-can-eat ribs).

## The Lucky Cat

285 Grand Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 268-0000, [www.the-lucky-cat.com](http://www.the-lucky-cat.com)

Mondays: Chess club, 8 pm, FREE. Tuesdays: Joe McGarry's Mondays, 8 pm, FREE. Wednesdays: Karaoke, 8 pm, FREE. Thursdays: Karaoke, 8 pm, FREE. Fridays: Karaoke, 8 pm, FREE. Saturdays: Karaoke, 8 pm, FREE.

## Magnetic Field

97 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 634-0088, [www.magneticfieldnyc.com](http://www.magneticfieldnyc.com)

Mondays: Rock 'n' Roll DJ Exchange, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 12: Wide Area Day Exchange, 7:30 pm, FREE. Feb. 13: Douglass, 7 pm, FREE. Feb. 14: Valentine's Day Dance Party, 8 pm, FREE. Feb. 17: Live band Karaoke, 8 pm, FREE. Feb. 18: El Paso Hips, 9 pm, FREE. Feb. 19: DJ Dash presents The Lost Sounds, Shop Fronts, DC Snipers, 7:30 pm, \$10. Feb. 20: Penetration with DJ Paddy Bunko, 9 pm, \$10. Feb. 21: Bunko Joe, 10 pm, FREE.

## M Shanghai Bistro & Don

111 Broadway St. at Grand Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-9300

Fridays and Saturdays: Monthly DJ parties, 10 pm, FREE. Sundays: Hip-hop karaoke with Dynamic Dames and DJ Harry Bats, 10 pm, FREE.

## National Restaurant

273 Brighton Beach Ave. at Brighton Beach, (718) 464-4225, [www.national.com](http://www.national.com)

Saturdays: Live Russian music and dance show, 10 pm, FREE.

## Talk to Us...

To list your events in Brooklyn Nightlife, please give us as much notice as possible. Include name of venue, address with cross street, phone number, times and admission or ticket prices. Send listings and photos of performers via e-mail to: [nightlife@brooklyn.com](mailto:nightlife@brooklyn.com). Papers can be via fax at (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed in a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

# The Brooklyn Papers PARENT

## Bad diet brings bad behavior

**Q: How have some parents gained more control over their kids' behavior by making diet changes?**

A: Larissa Scarborough calls herself a "food investigator."

She had to be, she says, to

figure out what was robbing her 4-year-old son of his sweet disposition. One culprit she detected was food coloring, particularly red. It relieved him up for days. He would hit, pinch, bite and let out guttural screams.

"It was like he was driven by a motor," says the mother, who discovered that her son had a similar intolerance for raisins, grapes and strawberries.

To figure out his sensitivities, Scarborough combined her own

food sleuthing with the seasoned common sense expertise of retired pediatrician Lella Denmark, who is 106. She also began to follow the food shopping advice advocated in the Feingold program, founded in 1976 and one of the most famous among regions where certain foods are eliminated. (Keep in mind, this column is about family successes, not scientific results, and is not meant to promote any certain diet.)

Attentive parents like Scarborough find they're in a better position than healthcare professionals to recognize how certain foods increase activity level or aggression or reduce attention span in their kids.

For many kids, fake colors and flavors are sprinkled throughout their diet, in green vitamins, red cough syrup, dark sodas, a rainbow of candies, orange macaroni and other processed foods out of boxes and bags. Keeping a food diary and cutting back on fake colors and additives is a good first step to calming down your children.

Nutrition changes helped an Atlanta teenager focus better in school, his mother says. His grades improved with the addition of a multivitamin and flaxseed oil, along with more protein and fewer processed foods. "When he had a high protein, whole-foods diet, he had a good day," his mother says. "He did his worst on the days where he had cereal for breakfast."

A third-grader was unable to focus at school, had a low frustration point and was prone to temper tantrums at home. The mom eliminated artificial colors and flavors, and her son told her his "mind seemed much more quiet." But when the child ate candy he got at school, the artificial coloring sent him "back to his old self — difficult and belligerent," the mother recalls.

Looking back, another mother says, she should have known her son was sensitive to artificial colors. "When he was a toddler, whenever we gave him the liquid Tylenol, which was dark red, he would get up off the couch and run in circles around the house, even with a fever," she recalls.

Another mother says one of her kids was expelled from two day-care centers for explosive, aggressive behavior. "Now she's a joy to be around," the

## Parent-to-Parent

By Betsy Flieger

mother says, because artificial coloring, preservatives, artificial flavoring and sweeteners, corn syrup, and some other foods have been eliminated from her diet.

"I cook primarily from scratch," says the single working mother. "Yes, it's more expensive and time-consuming, but the changes in her make it worthwhile. She'll never be the easiest child, but she is certainly manageable now."

A 2-year-old boy got the nickname the "White Tornado" because "he left a path of destruction in his wake," his mom says. He crashed into furniture, banged into people, and was kicked out of kindergarten.

His mother tried the Feingold program and eliminated artificial flavors, certain preservatives, and foods high in certain natural chemicals.

"I thought the program would be too difficult to follow, but I was at the point where any effort to help him was worth it," she says.

"After three years, he's a different child. The nasties, as I call all those aggressive and violent and depressed behaviors, are gone."

## Can you help?

"My daughter has been assigned to read Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Purloined Letter,' and I am wondering which age group this book is appropriate for. The reading seems more sophisticated than sixth grade and I wonder if I should say something to the teacher. It seems like high school material to me, but I am not an English major or teacher."

—A mother

If you have tips or a question, e-mail us at [p2p@att.net](mailto:p2p@att.net).

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